

REMARKS

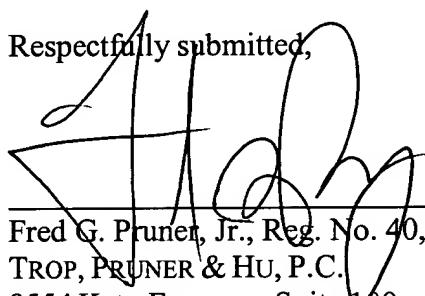
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

As amended, independent claims 45 and 50 now recite specific features of a refresh operation, which is neither taught nor suggested by Nishida or Nakajima. Although the Examiner contends that Nakajima allegedly inherently teaches a refresh operation, Nakajima fails to teach or suggest specifics of any refresh operation, such as providing a refresh signal and in response to the signal reading digital indications from memory buffers, as recited in amended independent claim 45. Similarly, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests sense amplifiers to in response to a refresh signal read digital indications from memory buffers, as now recited in amended independent claim 50.

Applicant therefore requests allowance of claims 45-52. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0312US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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